

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PATENT**

In re application of: Poon et al.

Attorney Docket No.: NRCAP003

Application No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

Group: Unknown

Title: DUAL FORCE MODE FINE STAGE  
APPARATUS

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESSMAILING**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Jack Limper

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to subsequent examination of the above-referenced U.S. Patent Application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 16 with the following:**

A) Conventionally, increasing the throughput requirements of a reticle scanning stage may cause the accuracy associated with the reticle scanning stage to be compromised, as actuators which are capable of higher accelerations are generally more difficult to control and, hence, less accurate. In addition to being less accurate, it is also difficult to position large actuators such that a line of force associated with the actuators may cross through the center of gravity. When the line of force is not through the center of gravity of the fine stage, then a substantial "balancing mass" is required to balance the overall stage. The use of such a balancing mass may further increase the size of the